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PATENT  
2488-1-011**In the claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of treating a bronchoconstrictive disease condition mediated by neutrophil cells in a patient, comprising administering a histamine binding compound to the patient in a therapeutically-effective amount, wherein the histamine binding compound is selected from:
  - a) the EV131 protein; or
  - b) a fragment of the EV131 protein that retains a biological function of EV131, wherein said biological function is the ability to bind specifically to histamine with a dissociation constant of less than  $10^{-7}$  M.
2. (currently amended) The A method according to claim 1, wherein said EV131 protein or said fragment of the EV131 protein that retains a biological function of EV131 is fused to a peptide or other protein to generate a fusion protein ~~disease condition is an allergic condition, an inflammatory condition or an auto-immune condition.~~
3. (currently amended) The A method according to claim 1, wherein said bronchoconstrictive disease condition is selected from the group consisting of adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS); infant respiratory distress syndrome (IRDS); severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS); chronic obstructive airways disease (COPD); cystic fibrosis; and ventilator induced lung injury (VILI); ~~capillary leak syndrome; reperfusion injury including injury following thrombotic stroke, coronary thrombosis, cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB), coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), limb or digit replantation, organ transplantation, post-operative inflammation or marginal infiltrates, bypass enteritis, bypass arthritis, thermal injury and crush injury, psoriasis, psoriatic arthropathy, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, immune vasculitis including Wegener's granulomatosis and Churg-Strauss disease, alcoholic liver disease, neutrophil-mediated glomerulonephritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, lupus nephritis, atherosclerosis, systemic sclerosis, gout, periodontal disease, ocular inflammation including dry eye, Sjogren's syndrome, contact lens associated papillary conjunctivitis (CLAPC), contact lens associated marginal infiltrates, post-surgical inflammation including surgery for cataract, glaucoma, corneal transplantation and laser in situ~~

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~~keratomileusis (LASIK), severe allergic conjunctivitis, vernal keratoconjunctivitis (VKC), diffuse lamellar keratitis, infective and non-specific conjunctivitis, keratitis and blepharitis, shield ulcers.~~

4. (currently amended) ~~The A method according to claim 2 +, wherein said fusion protein comprises a label histamine binding compound is a histamine scavenger.~~

5. (currently amended) ~~The A method according to claim 4, wherein said label is bioactive, radioactive, enzymatic or fluorescent, or an antibody histamine scavenger binds to histamine with a dissociation constant of greater than  $10^{-7}$  M.~~

6-10. (canceled).

11. (new) A method of treating a bronchoconstrictive disease condition mediated by neutrophil cells in a patient, comprising administering a histamine binding compound to the patient in a therapeutically-effective amount, wherein the histamine binding compound is EV131 protein.

12. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein EV131 protein is fused to a peptide or other protein to generate a fusion protein.

13. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the fusion protein comprises a label.

14. (new) The claim 13, wherein said label is bioactive, radioactive, enzymatic or fluorescent, or an antibody.

15. (new) The method according to claim 11, wherein said bronchoconstrictive disease condition is selected from the group consisting of adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS); infant respiratory distress syndrome (IRDS); severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS); chronic obstructive airways disease (COPD); cystic fibrosis; and ventilator induced lung injury (VILI).